GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
DEADLINE FOR POLIO ERADICATION
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has fixed any deadline for the eradication of polio in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which India is likely to achieve the objective by the said deadline;

(d) whether the Government have requested the WHO to extend the deadline; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) The WHO has fixed the goal of international polio eradication and polio-free certification by 2005.

(c) The objective of the Government is eradicating polio from the country and obtaining polio-free certification by 2005. Since the initiative to eradicate polio from India was started in 1995, there has been considerable progress towards achieving this goal till 2001. The number of polio cases declined from 1934 in 1998 to 1126 in 1999, 265 in 2000 and 268 in 2001. However, the polio eradication effort in India suffered a major setback during 2002 due to resurgence of polio cases in UP and spill over of the transmission into other neighbouring States. The number of cases during 2002 increased from 268 during 2001 to 1599. Keeping in view this scenario and with the objective of controlling the transmission of virus, the India Expert Advisory Group of WHO has suggested the strategy of four sub-national immunization rounds in high-risk States/areas and two national immunization rounds during 2003-04. As a part of this strategy, one sub-national immunization round in high-risk States/areas, including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has been scheduled to be held on 6th April, 03.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.